

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 MMS-03 AID-20 SAJ-01

NIC-01 AEC-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01

NEA-14 /213 W

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R 310753Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3299

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UN, XO, AS

SUBJECT: EXPERT'S REPORT ON INDIAN OCEAN: AUSTRALIAN REACTION

REF: A) CANBERRA 3036 B) CANBERRA 3203

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF WAS BRIEFED BY ASST SEC WILSON OF DFA MAY 31 REGARDING GOA RECOMMENDATIONS ON AMENDING EXPERT'S REPORT. AUSTRALIAN POSITION CONVEYED TO AUSTRALIAN UN DELEGATION FOR POSSIBLE USE WHEN AD HOC COMMITTEE NEXT MEETS SOME TIME AFTER JUNE 7. AUSTRALIAN POSITION REFLECTS CONTRADICTORY NATURE OF GOA CONSIDERATIONS OF INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS AS REPORTED REF B. END SUMMARY.

2. DFA ASST SEC WILSON TODL EMBOFF AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO EXPERTS' REPORT HAS BEEN APPROVED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND AUSTRALAIN MISSION TO UN HAS INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO CRITICIZE REPORT WHEN AD HOC COMMITTEE NEXT MEETS. ACCORDING TO WILSON, REPORT IS BEING REDRAFTED BY EXPERTS IN LONDON WITH DUE DATE OF JUNE 7, AND IT IS POSSIBLE COMMITTEE MAY MEET

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IN JUNE. HOWEVER, SHOULD JUNE MEETING NOT TAKE PLACE,

AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETING IN JULY OR SEPTEMBER.

3. AUSTRALIAN UN MISSION HAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN PRESENTING AUSTRALIAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACTUAL CHANGES IN REPORT. AUSTRALIAN MISSION ON ITS OWN PRESENTED SOME OF THESE CHANGES SHORTLY AFTER REPORT WAS ISSUED. EMBOFF RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT ADDITIONAL CHANGES CABLED FROM CANBERRA MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED INFORMALLY TO UN SECRETARIAT FOR EXPERTS USE IN REWRITING REPORT, ALTHOUGH WILSON DID NOT CONFIRM THIS.

4. MAJOR AUSTRALIAN CHANGES INVOLVE THE FOLLOWING:
(A) A RATIONALE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTHWEST CAPE STATION AND A REJOINDER TO THE REPORT'S ALLEGATION THAT NORTHWEST CAPE SERVED TO "TRIGGER" NAVAL ESCALATION INVOLVING US AND USSR; (B) AUSTRALIAN MISSION UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE NO COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA; (C) AUSTRALIAN MISSION UNDER INJUNCTION NOT TO ATTEMPT TO REDEFINE DESCRIPTIONS OF PINE GAP AND WOOMERA CONTAINED IN THE REPORT; AND (D) AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO RECOMMEND DELETION OF SOME ITEMS, E.G., SUPPOSED FACILITY ON NOFORLK ISLAND, AS BEING OUTSIDE SCOPE OF REPORT.

5. WILSON REPEATED STATEMENT MADE PREVIOUSLY (PARA 5, REF A) THAT GOA IS "COOL" TOWARD IDEAS FLOATED IN NEW YORK SUGGESTING THAT EITHER A MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WITH THE FOUR MAJOR POWERS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT OR ALTERNATIVELY A MEETING OF ALL THE LITTORAL STATES, TAKE PLACE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, SHOULD THE COMMITTEE WISH TO MAKE AN "APPEAL" OR PASS A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE INDIAN OCEAN DIRECTED AT THE TWO SUPER POWERS, GOA WILL TAKE POSITION THAT:

(A) IT WOULD SUPPORT AN APPEAL WHICH REITERATES GOA INTITATIVE IN RECOMMENDING "MUTUAL RESTRAINT" TO US AND USSR, BUT,

(B) WOULD WANT TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT ANY OTHER SUGGESTION THAT COMMITTEE TAKE STAND ON DEFINING WHAT IS MEANT BY "MUTUAL RESTRAINT," OR WAYS OF ACHIEVING BALANCE BE-
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TWEEN SUPER POWERS IN AREA.

WITH REGARD TO TACTICS, WILSON STATED GOA INSTRUCTIONS ARE THAT ANY APPEAL FOR COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN UP UNTIL AFTER COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED THE REVISED EXPERTS' REPORT. TO DO OTHERWISE, WILSON NOTED, WOULD BE TO GIVE WAY TO FEELING OF UNEASINESS WITHIN COMMITTEE ABOUT BIG POWER INTENTIONS WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME HAVING

FOCUSED UPON REPORT WHICH WAS PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE MEETING.

6. WILSON CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT GOA INSTRUCTIONS ON REPORT REPRESENT DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN POLITICAL AND DEFENSE (SECUTIRY) CONSIDERATIONS (SEE REF B). HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO PRIME MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS SUPPORTING INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY AND GOA'S INITIATIVE WITH US AND USSR APPEALING FOR MUTUAL RESTRAINT IN NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN.

7. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN FOREGOING AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON EXPERTS' REPORT, GOA IS HAVING DIFFUCULT TIME BALANCING SEVERAL CONCERNS AS REPORTED REF B.
END COMMENT:
GREEN

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